

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2002  
IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED  
- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

CALIFORNIA      - Mixed Citrus, white & extra light amber, 91¢ (30 day payment)  
                     - Mixed Flowers, light amber, 80 - 85¢  
                     - Orange Blossom, white, 90 - 95¢

FLORIDA            - Gallberry, white, 83 - 90¢  
                     - Gallberry, extra light amber, 83 - 90¢  
                     - Gallberry/Saw Palmetto, white, 85¢  
                     - Mixed Flowers, amber (bakery), 80¢ (small lot)  
                     - Orange Blossom, white, 83 - 95¢  
                     - Orange Blossom, extra light amber, 83 - 90¢  
                     - Orange Blossom/Gallberry, white, 85¢  
                     - Saw Palmetto, white & extra light amber, 83 - 90¢  
                     - Saw Palmetto, extra light amber, 85¢  
                     - Tupelo, white, \$1.05

MICHIGAN        - Floral not reported, extra light amber, 94¢

MONTANA         - Alfalfa, white, 94¢  
                     - Clover, white, 89¢

NORTH DAKOTA   - Clover, white, 60 - 79¢ (lower price small lot)  
                     - Mixed Flowers, dark amber, 75¢ (small lot)

SOUTH DAKOTA   - Clover, white, 94¢ - \$1.00

WASHINGTON    - Mixed Flowers, amber, 77¢

WISCONSIN       - Clover, white, 90¢ - \$1.00 (lower price small lot)

Prices paid to Canadian beekeepers for unprocessed bulk honey by packers & importers in U.S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty & crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

No Canadian purchases reported...

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

EAST COAST.....	BRAZIL	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber,	84¢
	THAILAND	- Mixed Flowers, extra light amber,	84¢
	URUGUAY	- Mixed Flowers, light amber,	88 1/2¢
	VIETNAM	- Mixed Flowers, light amber,	75¢

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## COLONY, HONEY PLANT & MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MAY

### APPALACHIAN DISTRICT – (MD, PA, VA, WV) \* \* \*

May came with periodic rains and a terrific bloom period for the black locust and tulip poplar. The area also received four record setting low temperature days (25-32 degree lows) after the last predicted frost date (May 15), which temporarily slowed plant growth and even froze late poplar bloom in the western parts of Virginia and West Virginia. Subsoil water levels remain critically low and moisture is still badly needed. Without recent rains, many crops are already beginning to wilt. Bee activity is at an all time high and unusually high swarming is still being reported. Beekeeper equipment suppliers are reporting above average sales in equipment due to the excessive swarming. There was very good honey production on the locust and poplar. Crop pollination was reported to be very good. Currently in bloom are legumes, clover, brambles, holly and various wildflowers such as honeysuckle.

### CALIFORNIA \* \* \*

April's weather continued into May with more than 150 daily-record lows and several May-record lows recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Eureka dipped to 35 degrees. The northern half of the state began to warm up while many areas along the southern coast remained fairly cool. An occasional thunderstorm brought rains to the Sierra Nevada mountains but only a trace to other areas. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles' .05" total left the cities season-to-date at a record low of 29% of normal. At the same time, the San Joaquin Valley, rain and hail caused more than \$25 million in crop damage. The heaviest damage occurred in Fresno County, where losses totaled \$24.2 million. Citrus growers absorbed the majority of the losses, with about 400 acres of citrus trees sustaining \$170,000 in damage. Sacramento set a daily-record when they received 1.22" of rain. The month ended with strong thunderstorms and below normal temperatures. Despite the rainshowers, many areas of the state have precipitation totals less than 50% of normal and temperatures were beginning to climb into the mid to upper 90's.

The condition of the bees varies depending on location. In drier areas, beekeepers have been forced to feed sugar supplements but if they are sitting in the foothills, which received some rain, they are doing better because the cascara, wildflowers and berries were blooming. The oranges provided the best honey crop so far this year but the eucalyptus flow was just fair and some bees have been moved out of the sage already because there is no flow. Cotton and alfalfa seed, which used to provide a good honey flow, has steadily declined the past few years.

**CALIFORNIA continued...**

Packers report demand has declined because of high prices and offerings have also slowed because there is very little of last year's drop still remaining. Beekeeping supply businesses also reported that business is slow. Some places are completely out of the wax business because beekeepers have been buying plastic foundation. Queen Breeders reported their business was ok this year but they are about done raising for this year.

**COLORADO \* \* \***

Conditions in Colorado remained extremely dry through most of the month. Water restrictions have been imposed throughout the state for city use as well as irrigation of crops by farmers. Crops such as alfalfa which usually get from three to four cuts during a growing season will be limited to two cuts this year because of the water shortages. Flower blooms as well as crop blooms have been late this spring with very dry and cool weather the state experienced through most of the month. Some areas of the eastern part of the state also experienced freezing temperatures as they fell as low as 24 degrees. Cool weather limited the bee colonies working the few blooms for just a few days. High winds also contributed to the limited activity of the colonies through most of the state.

**IDAHO \* \* \***

Most migratory hives have returned from Washington and California and beekeepers are reporting that the hives are in excellent shape. Idaho received some much needed moisture the last week in May and temperatures have warmed up to provide good flying conditions. Overall movement of honey was slow due to high prices for light supply.

**ILLINOIS \* \* \***

Nighttime temperatures over the state, early in the month, were mostly in the mid-forties while daytime highs were in the sixties. Rainfall for the month was heavy over most of the state. Some parts of Southern Illinois had as much as 4 inches the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Record or near record low temperatures were reported the first of the month but by the last of the month, northern sections experienced near record highs. The warm temperatures and heavy rains produced a heavy crop of white Dutch clover, mustard, honeysuckle and red clover. Most beekeepers installed supers due to collection activity. Honeybees, late in the month, were working dandelion and berry crops

Honey sales and the movement of wax was reported moderate. Retail sales remained steady.

**INDIANA \* \* \***

Beekeepers moved hives into fruit orchards; however, due to cold weather, nectar and pollen collection was very poor the first of the month. The State Apiary Inspector and some beekeepers received swarming calls due to rapid buildup the middle of the month. Some beekeepers added queens to weak hives. The State Apiary Inspector was busy inspecting hives as beekeepers feared spreading mites. In most of the cases, losses were due to frozen brood as temperatures were at or near record lows.

Honeybees were working dandelion, Dutch clover and a heavy nectar flow from mustard. Some wild flowers also produced bloom.

Bulk honey demand was fairly good. Retail sales were reported about normal for the month.

**MISSOURI & IOWA \* \* \***

Precipitation ranged above normal in Missouri and normal for Iowa in May. It was wet for most of the month. The middle of the month there were record rainfall. The field corn and soybeans have been slightly delighted of planting because of all the rainfall. The temperature has been fairly cool to slightly warm for most of the month. The end of the month has been warmer than earlier in the month. With more bees this year in Iowa and Missouri and rainy and sub-cool weather for the last half of the month was not good pollination for apples. There has been more moisture in Missouri than Iowa for clover. The clover crop looks promising for this year. There has been a lot of swarming because of the rain so bees were confined to their hives. The bees are built up well considering last year. The overall year looks good for 2002 considering the sub-cool and rainy weather.

**MONTANA \* \* \***

The cool spring weather continued for nearly three weeks into May. Havre dipped to 17 degrees on the 1<sup>st</sup>, their lowest reading in May since 1954. Three days later, Glasgow had a high of only 20 degrees. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the high in Cut Bank was 30 degrees while Great Falls did make it to 32 degrees. Glasgow also received 6.3" of snow during the first eleven days of May and Great Falls recorded 4/2" on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Very heavy snow was also reported in the Northern Rockies, where 24-hour totals on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> reached 31". In a complete turn-around, record highs on the 19<sup>th</sup> included 91 degrees in Missoula and 90 degrees a day later in Helena. The warm weather didn't last long and by the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Great Falls and Glasgow was getting record snowfall. By the end of the month, conditions varied across the state with some regions warming up to near 90 degrees while other areas were cool and rainy. Despite the unseasonable weather, the rain and snow came too late for most areas as topsoil moisture is still rated at 34% short.

The bees are in good condition and beginning to build up except some were a little behind because of the cool spring. There was a good dandelion flow which helped with the build-up. There were some losses in colonies wintered in the state. Old queens and/or mites are believed to be the cause.

**NEW ENGLAND \* \* \***

The weather in New England remained cool with most days in the low to mid 60s, and only a few days reaching into the 70s. Precipitation was above normal and along with the rain there were a few snow showers early in the month. Though there was above normal precipitation there is still a drought in most of New England due to below normal precipitation over the winter.

Beekeepers report that despite the weather it was a good month. Bees are out collecting various plants and trees including black locust and chestnut. Hives that were moved into regional orchards and fields for pollination were reported to be in a good condition. Most pollinating keepers are currently working on blueberries and strawberries while south coastal keepers are readying for the cranberry bloom.

In Northern and Western New England beekeepers are reporting losses from a larger than normal bear population. While in southern and eastern parts of the region no significant problems have been reported.

**NORTH CAROLINA \* \* \***

The month of May has been a mix of high temperatures and low temperatures, some dropping low enough for frost damage in some areas. Due to the frost in the western part of the state, some of the Locust and Poplar blooms were damaged. It is still a little early to determine the extent of damage in the western part of the state. However, in the eastern part of the Piedmont and the Coastal Plains honey flow is good - better than average. The major concern now is the moisture levels. Beekeepers are being cautious not to let their honey levels get too low, because the honey flow could end dramatically due to the dry weather. The overall conditions of the bees remain good. Beekeepers are being cautioned to continue checking for mites, particularly after routine treatment.

**OREGON \* \* \***

Temperatures the first week in May were generally near normal but less than normal precipitation was noted across the state. The weather turned unseasonably cold the next week with temperatures as much as 9 degrees below normal. A few days later, Morrow County received their first precipitation in months. By the middle of June, temperatures began to warm but rainfall was still short. By the end of the month, all stations recorded rainfall ranging from a trace to nearly an inch around Eugene and Pendleton set a record on the 27<sup>th</sup> when they received .40". The month ended with topsoil moisture 40% short and crops in Central Oregon about two weeks behind normal.

The bees are reported to be in good condition as they began to work on this years honey crop. Crimson and red clover bloomed throughout the month along with blackberries and scotch broom which had unusually heavy blossoms this year. The cascara finished up and by then end of the month, cranberries along the southern coast entered the early stages of bloom. Some migratory beekeepers were making plans to take some of their bees to North Dakota.

**UTAH \* \* \***

Most beekeepers are having to provide supplement feeding for their hives as dry conditions remain in most areas of Utah. The wholesale market for honey was extremely slow as prices to continue to rise as supplies remain light. The retail market did see some a slight increase in activity but still remains sluggish.

**WASHINGTON \* \* \***

Most of May was cooler than normal and strong winds were frequently reported. Many crops are running several weeks behind and frost damage to some fruit crops was also reported. Some far eastern parts of the state received some snow the second week of May and snow was frequently reported in the Cascade Mountains. Western Washington also received heavy rains which was occasionally mixed with hail. The weather often slowed field activities. The heavy rains turned to showers the last of May and growers were able to complete their spring planting of many field and vegetable crops. The first cutting of alfalfa was getting underway. After several drought years, the rain and snow are welcome with reports of reservoirs being near capacity which will keep irrigation water available through the summer.

Most bees spent the month in holding yards, some close to rivers or other water supplies. The bees were building up as a good supply of nectar and pollen was available from Russian Olive and Locust trees. Some swarming has also been reported. Migratory beekeepers were getting their colonies ready for the long trip to North and South Dakota. Clover is running behind there and some producers are not expecting a great crop because of the dry conditions in the Dakota's.

**WISCONSIN \* \* \***

Temperatures during the month of May were generally colder than normal over the state. The first half of the month, rain slowed much of the spring planting and movement of hives while northern sections received 20 inches of snowfall. By the last of the month, some fruit trees had heavy bloom. Beekeepers added supers as heavy collection had hive bodies filled. Precipitation and warm temperatures mid-month aided the wild cherry and dandelion bloom.

The State Apiary Inspector received a few swarming calls during the month which had not been the case over the past several years due to mites.

Bulk Honey and wax sales were slow. Demand at retail was reported moderate.

## U. S. EXPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, QUANTITY &amp; VALUE

	<u>M A R C H 2002</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE 2002</u>	
	QUANTITY	VALUE	QUANTITY	VALUE
	Kilograms	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars
<hr/>				
<b><i>HONEY, NATURAL, PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</i></b>				
Netherlands	800	6,078	1,843	9,202
Germany	3,321	4,356	11,322	21,996
Kuwait	49,987	108,897	49,987	108,897
Saudi Arabia	10,103	22,528	81,132	143,949
Arab Emirates	---	---	17,217	48,120
Yemen	22,795	29,900	62,803	153,380
Pakistan	---	---	16,850	16,652
Philippines	18,189	37,634	57,464	117,611
China	1,905	5,505	1,905	5,505
Korean Republic	120,986	158,700	120,986	158,700
Taiwan	---	---	4,150	6,892
Japan	58,175	133,519	81,745	194,652
<hr/>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>286,261</b>	<b>507,117</b>	<b>507,404</b>	<b>985,556</b>
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<b><i>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE</i></b>				
Canada	34,552	62,765	103,823	214,258
Mexico	10,305	13,516	10,305	13,516
Costa Rica	2,449	4,860	4,898	9,720
Guadalupe	3,018	8,233	3,018	8,233
Sweden	---	---	20,376	35,276
France	2,407	2,968	2,407	2,968
Germany	---	---	7,768	10,246
Yemen	41,071	91,876	41,071	91,876
Thailand	16,329	37,440	16,329	37,440
Singapore	---	---	18,510	47,706
Indonesia	9,344	24,416	28,032	73,248
Philippines	9,879	21,990	18,724	39,345
China	28,197	42,741	28,197	42,741
Korean Republic	2,300	9,384	4,600	18,748
Japan	370	2,788	37,951	70,433
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160,221</b>	<b>322,977</b>	<b>344,009</b>	<b>715,754</b>
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<b><i>HONEY, NATURAL, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED ----- FOREIGN MERCHANDISE</i></b>				
Canada	1,143	3,084	1,143	3,084
Germany	---	---	10,839	10,246
Japan	597	3,300	597	3,300
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>12,579</b>	<b>16,630</b>
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## U. S. IMPORTS OF HONEY BY COUNTRY, QUANTITY AND VALUE

COUNTRY	MARCH 2002			YEAR TO DATE 2002		
	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars	QUANTITY kilograms	CUSTOMS VALUE dollars	C.I.F. VALUE dollars
<b>NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- WHITE</b>						
Canada	1,409,774	2,401,827	2,422,944	4,007,931	6,586,827	6,634,725
Mexico	39,061	51,396	54,052	58,491	82,060	86,037
Chile	209,692	296,403	312,335	381,834	543,577	573,431
Brazil	153,600	221,970	235,750	192,828	269,550	286,472
Argentina	464,758	497,844	535,004	565,117	603,681	650,375
Czech Republic	17,104	23,096	24,761	17,104	23,096	24,761
India	93,000	122,450	122,743	93,000	122,450	122,743
Thailand	98,600	121,822	124,716	867,680	1,049,585	1,124,874
China, Mainland	293,143	318,751	345,445	1,316,187	1,376,517	1,497,260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,778,752</b>	<b>4,055,559</b>	<b>4,177,758</b>	<b>7,500,172</b>	<b>10,657,343</b>	<b>11,000,678</b>
<b>NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- EXTRA LIGHT AMBER</b>						
Canada	92,341	144,279	144,679	253,990	392,395	394,410
Mexico	57,025	75,273	79,284	262,269	356,747	370,3139
Chile	232,988	315,276	331,226	252,125	341,494	357,869
Brazil	19,800	25,799	27,522	39,000	51,574	53,872
Uruguay	136,799	191,373	195,273	330,416	457,466	468,958
Argentina	40,111	43,173	45,329	60,263	64,763	69,361
Thailand	19,500	23,608	25,692	1,242,140	1,456,373	1,599,038
Vietnam	---	---	---	817,800	911,137	973,185
China	238,402	232,263	257,988	967,102	963,855	1,065,847
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>836,966</b>	<b>1,051,044</b>	<b>1,106,993</b>	<b>4,225,105</b>	<b>4,995,804</b>	<b>5,352,853</b>
<b>NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE --- LIGHT AMBER</b>						
Canada	21,715	39,635	40,094	59,214	99,760	100,752
Mexico	1,021,934	1,351,909	1,421,222	2,234,879	2,816,042	2,946,026
Guatemala	15,120	20,428	22,093	15,120	20,428	22,093
Peru	---	---	---	18,000	23,599	25,399
Chile	534,758	731,010	783,366	534,758	731,010	783,366
Brazil	78,563	93,504	99,348	324,095	399,509	431,078
Uruguay	1,457,325	2,044,217	2,158,573	2,418,340	3,333,743	3,499,737
France	---	---	---	411	2,031	2,212
Germany	---	---	---	10,142	21,179	21,679
Switzerland	18,850	24,310	25,624	18,850	24,310	25,624
Romania	---	---	---	19,000	24,514	24,516
Bulgaria	---	---	---	20,233	26,424	26,426
India	131,760	165,614	182,014	131,760	165,614	182,014
Thailand	723,520	879,881	919,090	1,082,968	1,308,841	1,370,356
Vietnam	675,780	740,429	811,996	1,107,140	1,193,111	1,308,704
China	1,568,824	1,492,416	1,608,832	3,059,552	2,935,153	3,174,457
Taiwan	---	---	---	2,700	5,615	5,923
Australia	42,642	58,218	59,378	379,204	464,548	488,393
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,291,391</b>	<b>7,645,377</b>	<b>8,135,495</b>	<b>11,436,966</b>	<b>13,599,237</b>	<b>14,442,620</b>

**IMPORTS continued*****NATURAL HONEY, NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE – NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED***

Canada	85,211	122,599	123,206	219,242	302,616	304,366
Mexico	65,793	81,791	86,991	148,798	191,925	206,225
Dom. Republic	1,800	3,900	4,374	1,800	3,900	4,374
Brazil	---	---	---	77,800	93,909	103,305
Argentina	47,609	52,170	53,807	144,037	156,610	162,783
France	500	2,047	2,297	1,102	7,877	9,377
Switzerland	2,153	15,309	15,860	2,153	15,309	15,860
Italy	---	---	---	15,487	13,370	14,372
Greece	375	3,000	3,279	375	3,000	3,279
Thailand	---	---	---	19,720	26,961	44,214
China	19,720	16,436	18,981	59,160	49,298	56,903
Hong Kong	1,730	2,662	3,462	1,730	2,662	3,462
Taiwan	---	---	---	2,486	10,379	10,757
Australia	138,040	165,856	176,762	315,520	370,100	404,028
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>362,931</b>	<b>465,770</b>	<b>489,019</b>	<b>1,009,410</b>	<b>1,256,916</b>	<b>1,343,305</b>



